

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 /121 W  
-----052103 180255Z /73

O 180232Z APR 78  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0760  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01486

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

USDEL PLEASE PASS TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG  
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E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA  
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: REVISED LETTER FROM AFRICAN GROUP  
TO SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

REF: (A) USUN 01460, (B) USUN 01465

1. AFRICAN GROUP CHAIRMAN CHALE (ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TANZANIA) PROVIDED AMBASSADOR LEONARD PM APRIL 17 WITH REVISED VERSION OF LETTER FROM AFRICAN GROUP WHICH CHALE HAD PRESENTED AND THEN WITHDRAWN APRIL 14 (REF A). REVISED LETTER (STILL DATED APRIL 14) OUTLINED REASONS FOR AFRICAN GROUP OPPOSITION TO A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON NAMIBIA AT THIS TIME. TWO REASONS CITED IN REVISED TEXT ARE: THE UPCOMING SPECIAL SESSION; AND THE ABSENCE OF REACTIONS TO OUR PROPOSAL FROM SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA. OMITTED IS THE THIRD REASON CITED IN EARLIER TEXT: THE "UNDERSTANDING" REACHED BETWEEN SWAPO AND THE WESTERN NATIONS THAT NO SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING WOULD BE HELD PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL SESSION.

2. IN THE CONCLUSION OF THE REVISED LETTER (FULL TEXT CONTAINED PARA 5 BELOW) CHALE STATES: "...THE AFRICAN GROUP OF STATES HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO INFORM YOU, AND THROUGH YOU THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, ON ITS INABILITY TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH ANY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA WHICH WOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE SPECIAL SESSION. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF YOU COULD CIRCULATE THE PRESENT LETTER AS A DOCUMENT OF THE COUNCIL."

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3. NOTING LETTER'S FLAT REJECTION OF SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AT THIS TIME, WE INFORMED CHALE THAT IN COURSE OF OUR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WE HAVE HEARD SUGGESTION THAT A FORMAL MEETING THIS WEEK OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS (I.E., IF IT WAS AGREED THAT RESOLUTION WOULD NOT BE PUT TO A VOTE). (SEE CONVERSATION WITH INDIAN AMBASSADOR JAIPAL REF B.) CHALE REPLIED THAT HE HAD HEARD SIMILAR TALK. WE THEN ASKED WHETHER THE SUBSTANCE OF THE REVISED LETTER (DATED APRIL 14) REPRESENTED CURRENT VIEWS OF AFRICAN GROUP OR THEIR VIEWS AS OF APRIL 14. IN RESPONSE, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT REVISED LETTER REFLECTED VIEWS OF LAST WEEK. AFRICAN GROUP HAD NOT MET SINCE THEN ON THIS ISSUE, AND CHALE WAS UNSURE WHETHER OR NOT AFRICAN GROUP'S APRIL 14 SENTIMENTS HAD CHANGED. IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE, WE SUGGESTED THAT HE MIGHT NOT WANT TO HAVE HIS LETTER CIRCULATED NOW, AND HE AGREED, FORMALLY REQUESTED THAT WE HOLD OFF CIRCULATION UNTIL WE HEAR FROM HIM.

4. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE IT UNPRECEDENTED FOR A REGIONAL

GROUP TO INFORM THE SECURITY COUNCIL THAT IT WILL BE  
UNABLE TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THE HOLDING OF A  
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL. WE FIND THIS TO BE A  
DISTURBING POSITION FOR THE AFRICAN GROUP TO BE TAKING.  
END COMMENT.

5. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REVISED LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL FROM AMBASSADOR SEBASTIAN CHALE,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE AFRICAN GROUP.

MR. PRESIDENT,

- ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP OF STATES, I HAVE  
THE HONOUR TO CONFIRM TO YOU IN WRITING THE FOLLOWING:
- IN THE LIGHT OF THE REQUEST OF THE WESTERN MEMBERS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01486

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OF THE COUNCIL RELATING TO A MEETING OF THE SECURITY  
COUNCIL ON THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA, THE AFRICAN GROUP  
OF STATES MET ON THURSDAY 13 APRIL 1978, TO DISCUSS  
THIS QUESTION.

- THEY UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT SUCH A MEETING OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL AT THE MOMENT WOULD BE UNTIMELY  
AND INOPPORTUNE. THE MAIN REASONS IN SUPPORT OF THIS  
OPINION ARE:

- (A) THE FORTHCOMING SPECIAL SESSION OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE QUESTION;  
- (B) THE FACT THAT THE PARTIES DIRECTLY  
CONCERNED: THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME AND SWAPO HAVE NOT  
YET REACTED OFFICIALLY ON THE LATEST PROPOSALS OF THE  
WESTERN POWERS.

- TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FOREGOING, THE AFRICAN  
GROUP OF STATES HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO INFORM YOU,  
AND THROUGH YOU THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, ON ITS  
INABILITY TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH ANY MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL ON THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA WHICH WOULD  
TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE SPECIAL SESSION.

- IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF YOU COULD CIRCULATE THE  
PRESENT LETTER AS A DOCUMENT OF THE COUNCIL.

- PLEASE ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT, THE ASSURANCES OF MY  
HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

LEONARD

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, MEETINGS  
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**Draft Date:** 18 apr 1978  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 USUN NEW YORK 1460, 78 USUN NEW YORK 1465  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**TAGS:** PORG, PDEV, SF, WA, UNSC  
**To:** SECRETARY IMMEDIATE STATE  
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